

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 2 and 13-19 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for allocating shares of stock comprising an initial public offering, the method comprising:

 offering in a computer system, a subset of the shares to one or more pre-auction bidders at a pre-auction price;

 receiving into a memory in the computer system, an indication from the one or more pre-auction bidders accepting the offer for the shares at the pre-auction price;

 publishing in the computer system, information descriptive of one or more pre-auction sales of shares comprising the initial public offering, said information descriptive of the pre-auction sales of shares including the pre-auction price and identification of bidders who bought shares at the pre-auction price;

 accepting into the memory in the computer system, the offer for shares at the pre-auction price; and

 auctioning with a processor in the computer system, the remaining shares.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of publishing via the computer system, the number of shares offered at the pre-auction price.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of publishing via the computer system, how many shares each pre-auction bidder received.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of determining with the processor in the computer system, pre-auction bidders based upon at least one of: investor suitability, investment objectives and prior investment history.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pre-auction price is determined by an issuer of the stock and an underwriter for the stock.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of making available in the computer system, a list of those pre-auction bidders that have previously purchased pre-auction shares comprising an offering underwritten by an investment bank involved in the initial public offering.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 additionally comprising the step of making available in the computer system, information descriptive of an investment experience related to the previously purchased pre-auction shares comprising the pre-auction price of the previously purchased pre-auction shares.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of: setting in the memory in the computer system, a reserve price for the initial public offering; and determining with the processor in the computer system, a total amount to be received from accepted pre-auction offers and auction bids; and conditioning with the processor in the computer system, sale of the shares comprising the initial public offering, upon the total amount equaling or exceeding the reserve price.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein auctioning comprises the steps of: receiving into the memory in the computer system, one or more bids comprising a price per share and a number of shares; and allocating with the processor in the computer system, shares according to a highest price per share bid for a corresponding number of shares until all shares comprising the initial public offering have been allocated.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein if more than one bid is received comprising the same price per share, shares are allocated for that price on a first bid received, first shares allocated basis.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein if more than one bid is received comprising the same price per share, shares are allocated for that price on a pro rata basis.

13-19. (canceled)